mounted at side walls 17 and 18. The guide members 19 and 20 are slidably guided on guide columns 12 and 13 of the support table 1. A shaft 23 is rotatably mounted on two side plates 21 and 22 and extends between the holders 19 and 20. The side plates 21 and 22 are fastened to the side walls 17 and 18, respectively, of the console. Gears 24 and 25 are fixed to the shaft 23 adjacent the respective ends and they engage with racks 26 and 27 which are formed on the outer surface of the guide columns 12 and 13. The gears 24 and 25 thus rotate synchronously during the upward and downward motion of the console 6.

Locking means are provided for locking the console in an adjusted vertical position which includes a locking lever 28 and 29 which is pivotally mounted to the upper support bracket 19 adjacent each gear 24 and 25 and urged in a direction to cause a projecting tooth 3 thereof to engage with the gear teeth of the associated gear by the action of a biasing spring 31. The outer ends of both ratchet levers 28 and 29 are provided with respective handles 32 and 33 which project outwardly through openings 35 and 36 at the underside of the front portion of the console 6. By contacting these end plates 32 and 33, such as by the knees of the operator, it is possible to lift the projection 30 out of engagement with the gears 24 and 25 in order to facilitate the movement of the console either upwardly or downwardly to a desired position. The manual pressure on the elements 32 and 33 from below and upwardly pivots the associated levers 28 and 29 to free the gears for rotation which permits the upward or downward movement. As soon as the desired adjusted position of the console is reached the ratchet levers 28 and 29 are released and the springs 31 urge the associated levers in a direction to cause re-engagement of the tooth 30 into the associated gear 24 and/or 25. This causes the locking of the console 6 in the adjusted position.

In the above embodiment the console 6 is arranged so as to protrude at the front 5 of the table top 1. It is also possible to arrange the console within a cutout portion of the table 1 for adjustment of height if so desired, in which case it would protrude only partially or not at all from the front edge of the table top 1. The length or the width of the console can be designed as desired and the inclined top surface may be made as low or as high as desired.

In the embodiment shown in FIGS. 4 to 6 there is provided an office table generally designated 55 which includes parts which are similarly designated to those of FIGS. 1 to 3 but with primes. In this construction the console 6' forms a continuation of the front of the table top 1', and the cover 9' for the console is inclined at an angle of about 10°. In this construction a numerical keyboard 47 and several command keyboards or programming keyboards 48 are located in the face of the inclined cover 9. An alpha keyboard 52 is centered approximately in relation to the posting machine or printer 4' which is located in the table top 1'. The alpha keyboard 52 is arranged on a slide member or slide mounting 53 having linear movable roller bushings 54 which provide for easy frictionless roller movement of the slide mount on supporting rods 55 which are secured to the table top 1 by holder elements 56 and 57. The slide mount 53 may be pushed all the way into the console 6 as indicated in FIG. 6 or pulled out completely as shown in FIG. 5. The use of the spherical ball bushing 54 insures a clearance-free stable and yet easily displaceable mounting of the slide 53 in the console 6. A locking device (not shown) is provided which is releasable by pressure on a key to permit the slide to be locked in position as shown in FIG. 6 or which may be released by the locking device to cause a biasing spring 58 to urge it to the outward position shown in FIG. 5.

As shown in FIG. 4, a record holder 59 is arranged to the left of the keyboard 52. The numerical keyboard 47 and a part of the command or program keyboard 48 is located directly above the alpha keyboard 52 so that all of these keyboards can be located substantially at the same distance from the record holder 59 at a location most favorable for working without inconvenience. The numerical keyboard 47 and the command or program keyboard 48 are located on a higher plane than the alpha keyboard 52, so that in the vertical direction the most favorable working position of the individual keyboards also exist.

In FIG. 4 a dash-lined indication of a mounting of a keyboard 53', that is, an alpha keyboard, may be provided in which the mounting 53' extends at a right angle to that indicated in the solid lines.

In the embodiment of FIGS. 4 to 6 as in the embodiment of FIG. 1 to 3, the console 6' is not rigidly fastened to the table top 1 but is adjustably mounted for vertical movement by means of holders 19 and 20 which are arranged on vertically extending columns 12 and 13. With the inventive construction it is expedient to secure the record holder 59 so that it is pivotal on a console 6' and to place it loosely on a part of the tabletop 1 so that it will not hinder the displacement and height of the console 6'. This results in an advantage that when the console 6' is set lower, the record holder 59 assumes a steeper position and thus gives a shorter operator a better vision of the records deposited thereon.

The arrangement of the keyboard 47, 48 and 52 in the embodiments of FIG. 4 to 6 offers advantages in respect to working technique and work hygiene but it is also advantageous from the space saving standpoint and it can be applied whenever different keyboards which are operated by one operator in different ways are to be arranged in the most favorable manner for the respective working method.

While specific embodiments of the invention have been shown and described in detail to illustrate the application of the principles of the invention, it will be understood that the invention may be embodied otherwise without departing from such principles.

What is claimed is:

1. An office machine table comprising a table top adapted to contain an office machine such as a machine of a data processing system, at least one mounting column carried on said table top, a console having at least one keyboard, said console having at least one guide member engageable over said mounting column and supporting said console for vertical upward and downward movement along said column, said column including a rack portion, a shaft carried on said console and having a gear which is in engagement with said rack portion, said gear being rotatable upon upward and downward movement of said console, and locking means mounted on said console, said locking means comprising at least one lever pivoted on said console and having a locking tooth engageable with said gear for locking said gear to prevent movement of said con-